



Long-Range Planning Parlor Sessions

Sunday, February 2, 1-4 pm
Wednesday, February 5, 7-9 pm

At the synagogue. For more information, contact Arthur Slepian (aslepian@pacbell.net) or Claudia Bernard (Claudia_Bernard@caa.uscourts.gov).

MEET SHA'AR ZAHAV'S NEW STAFF MEMBERS

The end of December brought not only the beginning of the secular year, but also marked two very important additions to the Sha'ar Zahav family. The JGF interviewed Alison Gilbert and Joe Marin to give our readers an insight as to who they are.

Alison Gilbert is Sha'ar Zahav's new Membership Assistant. She will coordinate staff responsibilities for outreach and membership retention. In addition to many programmatic responsibilities, Alison will also produce the weekly email to members. She'll be working closely with the Membership and Kesher Committees. This position was funded in part by a generous grant from the Koret Foundation.

Alison has a BA in Social Thought and Analysis from Washington University at St. Louis. Currently Alison is reading *The Hours* by Michael Cunningham, *America the Beautiful* by Moon Unit Zappa and *You Shall Know Our Velocity* by Dave Eggers (yes, all simultaneously). In her free time she also enjoys writing non-fiction and going to the movies.

Where were you working before coming to CSZ?

Most recently I was working with A Traveling Jewish Theatre as the

—continued on page 5

Scholar-in-Residence Weekend: CSZ Welcomes Rabbi Benay Lappe

February 21 – 23 at CSZ

Rabbi Benay Lappe will be joining us as Scholar-in-Residence from Friday, February 21 through Sunday, February 23. The focus of the weekend will be LGBT issues and their intersection with Jewish law and Talmud. During the weekend, we will learn about the actual process of how Jewish law and Jewish tradition change, revealing that there are, in fact, NO internal barriers to the kind of seemingly radical re-reading of Jewish law that we might envision.

Rabbi Lappe has developed a rather unique way of teaching Talmud in English, using her own translations juxtaposed onto the actual Vilna Shas, and chevruta study, which recreates the feel and challenge of learning from the original Aramaic, "yeshiva-style." Rabbi Lappe teaches Torah that illustrates the radical changes that have been made in how we understand the Biblical text. She shows that Leviticus is not inherently more problematic than a dozen other sections of the Bible that we have effectively read out of existence.

"When students work through these texts, the effect can be quite empowering. Looking at how radical changes have been made in the past opens up the possibility of redeeming the tradition for ourselves, as LGBT Jews, and helps shift our anger and alienation away from God, Judaism, or ourselves," says Rabbi Lappe. "By becoming 'insiders' in the Talmudic process, we acquire a usable past in which we come to see ourselves as inheritors of a courageous, chuzpadik tradition."

The schedule for the weekend is as follows:

Friday, February 21: Rabbi Angel and Daniel Chesir will co-lead services, and Rabbi Benay Lappe will deliver the drash, titled "Wait, Wait, Don't Tell Me: The Most Radical Re-reading of a Torah Verse in Jewish History (hint: It's not in Leviticus)."

Saturday, February 22: 9 am – Torah Study led by Rabbi Benay Lappe
10 am – Shabbat services led by Rabbi Angel and Howard Steiermann
Luncheon at CSZ following services
Learning Session with Rabbi Benay Lappe: "The Queer Jewish Toolbox: A Crash Course in Jewish Law for Traditional Radicals."

Sunday, February 23: 10 am – Bagel Brunch and Learning Session with Rabbi Benay Lappe: "Queer Talmud (or Ammo to Use Against Our Jewish Oppressors, Internal and External)."

—continued on page 4

Opportunity to Connect With the Rabbi

by Ora Prochovnick, chair, Rabbi Liaison Committee

The Rabbi Liaison Committee is very pleased to announce that we will be hosting another round of parlor sessions for members to meet with Rabbi Camille Shira Angel, in a setting that is conducive to open dialogue and discussion. A series of these meetings took place during Rabbi Angel's first year with our congregation. There was such a positive response from all who attended that —continued on page 6

From The Rabbi



Hope—A Vital Life Force

By Rabbi Camille Shira Angel

Last month I was approached by the Jewish Community Relations Council to speak at a rally regarding the situation at Rainbow Grocery. To make a long story short, two out of eleven departments had stopped offering Israeli goods without following official channels within the store and without officially calling it a boycott. The JCRC argued that in fact this was a boycott and challenged the Jewish community to pressure Rainbow to reconsider its position. As it happened, the leadership at Rainbow took to heart the JCRC's concerns and issued a thoughtful apology as well as indicating that they were again stocking Israeli products.

After much deliberation about whether or not to accept this invitation, I decided that perhaps I could offer a worthwhile message to the greater San Francisco Jewish community and the community at large.

Here are my remarks:

Good afternoon and thank you for inviting me to address those assembled here today.

As the rabbi of a progressive and inclusive synagogue, I recognize that not all progressives stand together on matters relating to the plight of Israelis and Palestinians...and yet, we begin from a common place. Here we are, all of us - gathering as people committed to social justice for the common purpose of peace.

Sadly, our common ground has become flooded with misinformation and mistrust, with awful news reported from every angle, on the terrible suffering among the Palestinian people and the Jewish people.

Amid this deluge of despair...we need a Rainbow! Fortunately, as it turns out, we have one. Rainbow Grocery: a worker-owned and-operated cooperative. What a great model for a just and progressive business practice. It is a tall and admirable order, and one which Rainbow Grocery has filled with remarkable integrity over the years. And so we thank you, Rainbow Grocery, as you continue to sustain your arch over and above the conflicting calls, both "for" and "against" boycotting Israeli goods.

Yes, we thank you, Rainbow and the Jewish Community Relations Council, for working together to

heal this recent rift and preventing the escalation of something much more divisive and ultimately destructive.

In the days ahead as you, the workers of Rainbow, continue to wrestle for consensus, we urge you to demonstrate that we can navigate this "storm" respectfully; that we can listen and learn from each other and hold fast to our overarching values of peace and respect for diversity.

We must resist the urge to oversimplify a complex situation. We must commend Rainbow for having the wisdom to recognize this and to continue to participate in a dialogue that challenges all of us to be the rainbow—the age-old symbol of hope.



Celebrate with Kadimah on the Bimah:

Kadimah-led Services, Saturday, March 1, 10 am

You won't want to miss this terrific opportunity to daven with the youth of our community. From the youngest members of our religious school to those b'nei mitzvah veterans, our students will be sharing their Torah with us at this special twice-yearly event. You will be energized and inspired. Please come and support our kids.

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News from the Experiment in Congregational Education (ECE) Task Force

by Dan Bellm, chair

For the past eight months, a team of ten congregants (Caryn Aviv, Ali Cannon, Ruby Cymrot-Wu, Paula Fleisher, Kirsten Gustafson, Danny Kodmur, Debbie Levy, Phyllis Mintzer, Andy Williamson Jon Zingman and myself), along with Rabbi Angel, Educator Sue Bojdak and consultant Lisa Langer from the Bureau of Jewish Education, has been involved in re-envisioning how education might look in our congregation's future. Sha'ar Zahav is one of five Bay Area congregations chosen to take part in an 18-month "Innovative Models of the Religious School" project, led by ECE (Experiment in Congregational Education), an organization based at Hebrew Union College's Rhea Hirsch School of Education in Los Angeles.

Since our first meeting in May, we have been reflecting on our own assumptions, values and visions about Jewish education and learning innovative models being developed by synagogues across the country. We are now moving into a guided process of examining in depth our own religious school, Kadimah, in order to develop a long-range plan for enhancing and revitalizing our congregation's life as a learning community not only for children, but for all our members. The five models we have been studying range from "Shabbat Communities," which bring children and parents together every week to study and celebrate Shabbat, and "Congregant-Led Experiential Learning," in which parents and other adult congregants perform most of the school's teaching duties,

under the guidance of trained educators to "Flexible Learning Options," in which schools offer families a variety of routes toward Jewish learning and community.

This spring and summer, as we move toward developing a proposal for enhancing Sha'ar Zahav's religious school, we aim to stay in close communication with other CSZ committees and the congregation as a whole. We need your input and visions of how we can continue to grow as a learning community. Stay tuned to the Forward, and feel free to contact ECE Task Force Chair Dan Bellm (danbellm@earthlink.net) or CSZ Educator Sue Bojdak (educator@shaarzahav.org) for more information.



Save the Date!
**Annual
Congregational
Seder**
Thursday, April 17
Details to be Announced

- Mark your Calendars for the Sha'ar Zahav Community Retreat:
May 30 - June 1
at Walker Creek Ranch
(Marin County)
- It's davening under the stars, swimming in the pond, Shabbat songs by the campfire, learning, lounging and community. Don't miss it.

Social Action Connection

by Susan Lubeck

Pledge/Participation Update. As of early January, eighteen people had responded to the December mailing inviting all members of our community to get involved in social action.

A dozen are willing to be on call for CSZ Social Action; four have contributed or committed to contribute as co-organizers of significant efforts or events, at least two are participating weekly at Most Holy Redeemer and two not-afraid-to-commit types have pledged monthly hours.

Thank you to those who recently submitted pledge forms: Kelly Cytron, Jo-Ellen Kaiser, Ora Prochovnick and Debbie Levy.

And thank you to the dozens of people who made our annual Project Open Hand volunteer relief effort smooth and successful. Special thanks to Steve Mazer and Craig Persiko.

Upcoming. With your help, we will continue dialogues around LGBT diversity, freedom and justice (contact A.J. Turpen at ajsparkles@mac.com); hear from the CSZ youth after their return from the annual UAHC/Religious Action Center activists' trip, and find ways to partner with them (watch the weekly email for a meeting date in February or contact Melanie Kushnir in the CSZ office or susan-lubeck@aol.com); celebrate Freedom to Marry events in February and pursue justice around LGBT issues (Craig Persiko, craig@redcottage.com); continue to provide service and support at Most Holy Redeemer (Jay Davidson, teacher@jaydavidson.com, 415/861-2444) and participate in Rebuilding Together in April (Lele and Rachel Field at lelerachel@lelerachel.com)

Team CSZ Completes AIDS Marathon



Team CSZ 2002 minutes after the Marathon. From left to right: Alan Gordon, Rachel Timoner, Marc Wernick, Don Fischer and Howard Steiermann. Not pictured: Howard Goldin and Lisa Lubchansky

Together with over 1,700 other AIDS Marathoners, Team CSZ completed the Honolulu Marathon on Dec 8. The 2002 Marathon raised \$6 million for the fight to end AIDS. Money raised through this marathon will benefit the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, which provides vital services to people with AIDS and funds awareness programs designed to help stop the spread of HIV infection. A portion of the proceeds will also support work towards a vaccine and facilitate access to HIV treatment in the developing world.

For two years in a row, members of the synagogue banded together to train and fundraise for this important athletic endeavor. "As amazing as training and running last year's Honolulu marathon was, I didn't plan on doing it again. Then I was reminded by a friend of mine who has lived with HIV for nearly 18 years — there is still so much

progress needed in fighting AIDS, and therefore so, so many dollars are still desperately needed," commented Team CSZ veteran Howard Steiermann. Steiermann, along with team members Don Fischer and Marc Wernick, could be seen hitting the pavement in Noe Valley and the Marina early on Tuesday and Thursday mornings as part of their 500 miles, six-month training program.

If you're inspired by Team CSZ's sexy legs and want to be part of the group next year, talk to one of the team members. The official training begins in June. Visit www.aidsmarathon.com for more details and keep an eye out this summer for details about joining Team CSZ 2003. Finally, and most importantly: Team CSZ would like to thank the congregation for their loving support. We could not have run the AIDS Marathon without you!

RABBI LAPPE —continued from page 1

Rabbi Benay Lappe is a nationally respected Talmud scholar and is currently Master Educator for The Bronfman Curriculum Initiative, a not-for-profit organization which exposes independent schoolteachers to traditional Jewish texts and techniques for teaching ethics. She also serves as Resident Rabbinic Scholar at Aitz Hayim Center for Jewish Living in Chicago. The first openly lesbian Conservative rabbi, Rabbi Lappe was ordained from the Jewish Theological Seminary in 1997. She also served as Scholar-in-Residence at the Milken Community High School and is an Associate at CLAL - The National Jewish Center For Learning and Leadership, where she was chosen by The Righteous Persons Foundation to serve as its first Spielberg Fellow. Rabbi Lappe holds an MA in Teaching from the University of Illinois, an MA in Hebrew Letters from the University of Judaism and an MA in Rabbinic Literature from the Jewish Theological Seminary. Rabbi Lappe has taught Talmud at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Philadelphia and at the University of Judaism. She served as the Director of Education at CBST in New York City, was Founding Director of CBST's Gay and Lesbian Lehrhaus Judaica, and founded the Queer Jewish Think Tank at BCC in Los Angeles.

For more information on the Shabbaton weekend or to RSVP for the luncheon and/or bagel brunch, please contact Melanie Kushnir (ext. 305 or mkushnir@shaarzahav.org). The entire weekend is free of charge, but we hope that you'll make a donation to help offset the costs of the Shabbaton. Please send donations to the CSZ office and note that it is for the Shabbaton Weekend.

Third Friday Dinner

Friday, February 21

Join us on February 21 for our monthly Third Friday Night Dinner. This month we will be at Bangkok 16 (Thai food) at 3214 16th St. (between Dolores and Guerrero). Please RSVP to the office by Thursday, February 19.

New members, long-time members and guests are all welcome! Join us and get into the spirit of Shabbat before services. Meet us at 5:50 at the restaurant so we can order promptly at 6 pm. We will walk back to the synagogue in time for 7:30 services. This "pay-your-own-way" meal generally runs about \$15. This month's dinner will be hosted by Tony Harris. For more information, please call Alison in the synagogue office or contact Tony (415/552-1882 or tony_harris@stanfordalumni.org).



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Note that articles reflect the opinions of their author and not necessarily those of the congregation or its committees.

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- Chair and Editorial Coordinator: Karen Schiller
- Editing/Proofreading/Layout: Judith Cohen, Marjorie Hilsenrad, Rose Katz, Batya Kalis, Geoff Jaeger-Skigen
- Advertising: Roslyn Fuerman (510/526-1209 or froslyn@earthlink.net)
- Design and Layout: Caryn Leschen, Aunt Violet Productions 415/282-0346
- Printing: Genesis Printing & Graphics
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Display Ads are \$15 per column inch with discounts available for frequency. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

Classified Ads are \$5 for up to 20 words, plus \$1 for each 10 additional words.

Payment must accompany ads and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 290 Dolores St., San Francisco, California, 94103, marked: Attention Forward Advertising. We reserve the right to reject any ad.



February 2003, Volume 26,
Issue #6



MEET SHA'AR ZAHAV'S NEW STAFF MEMBERS —continued from page 1

Marketing Programs Administrator. My job at ATJT was temporary until the close of the 2001-2002 play season. Coming from a more corporate atmosphere, I felt I had finally found my place working in a Jewish organization. I found my work there more personally rewarding and inspiring.

How did you become interested in working at CSZ?

I am truly inspired by working in community-based organizations and my experience working at ATJT solidified my commitment to the Jewish community. My experience in marketing and outreach was the perfect match for this position and for Sha'ar Zahav.

Where are you from?

Originally I am from Long Island, NY, although my family has since moved to Manhattan. I went to college in St. Louis, Missouri and moved to San Francisco in 2000 shortly after graduating. A New Yorker at heart, I have certainly been softened by the West Coast and love San Francisco.

What is your favorite part about CSZ so far?

After only a few days, I have to say that my favorite part is the people! Everyone has been so welcoming and helpful. Both the staff and the members I have met have all been wonderful.



Joe Marin is the new Administrative Assistant. He is responsible for coordinating the synagogue's master calendar of events, maintaining the database program that tracks dues and donations, and working with the Information and Technology Committee on CSZ's website, to name just a few of his duties.

Joe is currently studying Architecture & Design at the Academy of Art College. During his spare time he can be found reading



voraciously, listening to an eclectic range of music, writing short stories and profiles, playing competitive rounds of Scrabble and chess, and dancing, dancing, dancing – but not all simultaneously. And theater, too; he loves acting!

Where did you work before CSZ?

I worked for a construction management/design firm in the Financial District as a project assistant. I've worked in the hotel and tourism industry for approximately six years as a concierge and front office guru. I have had brief stints working for Silicon Graphics and a local firm that designed interactive tools and products for children. I also do freelance design work when my schedule permits.

How did you become interested in working for CSZ?

I really wanted to contribute my job experience to a diverse team that, in turn, was connected to a community. For as long as I can recall, I have been interested in metaphysical studies, Jewish mysticism and my spiritual cultivation as a human being. I felt that my experience and personal interests went hand-in-hand with the position that CSZ was looking to fill, and here I am filling it.

Where are you from?

I am originally from San Antonio, Texas and moved to San Francisco nearly seven years ago. Its cultural diversity and varied forms of entertainment (restaurants, theater, the wine country) have really appealed to me.

What do you like most about CSZ so far?

The staff and congregants I've met so far have offered me a warm welcome – seriously. It's genuinely refreshing. Now if I can just get names and faces memorized... Will there be a test later?

Please introduce yourself to Joe and Alison the next time you call or visit the office.

Rabbi Angel decided to continue with these sessions in order to meet more of our current members, to meet new members and newly active members and to reconnect with those members she has already met.

During the initial sessions, everyone related the story of how they came to Sha'ar Zahav. Rabbi Angel learned a bit about each person and what it is about Sha'ar Zahav that they had found or were seeking. Rabbi Angel then shared events from her history that contributed to her personal and professional development and ultimately to her coming to Sha'ar Zahav. The upcoming meetings will follow this same pattern. If you attended a previous session, this

is a chance to build on the previous dialogue and deepen the conversation. If you were not able to attend in the past, we encourage you to take this opportunity to share your opinions, concerns, wishes and dreams as we further develop our growing relationship with Rabbi Angel.

The two upcoming sessions are scheduled for March 2 at 2 pm and April 22 at 7 pm. They will each last approximately two hours and will be hosted at a member's home. Since we are trying to keep the number of people at each session between 20 and 25, please RSVP to the synagogue office to let us know if you will be attending and to obtain location information.



Baked Goods and Art Sale

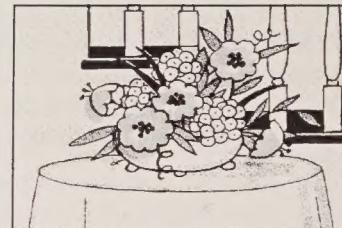
Would you like to help a student who's new to America by eating homemade sweets? As our first class mitzvah, Kitah Vav, in cooperation with the International Refugee Committee, has decided to provide a "backpack" for a child in a refugee family. We will have a sale of homemade baked goods and handmade art at Saturday Kadimah in February to raise money for this backpack stocked with school supplies. Watch for a flyer with the exact date and other details.

Earnings Devoted to Philanthropy

SINAI MEMORIAL CHAPEL

CHEVRA KADISHA

Pre-need funeral arrangements available



Oneg and Flower Sponsorship

*12/2 Flowers by Phyllis and George Mintzer in memory of Zora and Tatia French.

*12/6 Oneg by Lonnie Weiss in honor of Rabbi Angel, Daniel Chesir and CSZ service leaders.

*12/6 Flowers by Michael Ritz
in memory of Jack and Gertie
Ritzenberg.

*12/13 Flowers by Barbara Cymrot and Dafna Wu in memory of Isa Leah Cymrot-Wu.

*12/20 Lonnie Weiss in memory
of Vera and Jackie Weiss.

*12/27 Oneg by Paul Cohen in
memory of Rebecca Rachel
Greenberg.

*12/27 Flowers by Steven Angelides and Jesse Rivas in honor of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav.

Condolences

Daniel Chesir, on the death of his mother-in-law, Rita Rowniak.

Robert Goldstein and Michael Bettinger, on the death of their uncle, Charles Rosen.

Ellen Novogrodsky, on the death of her grandmother, Sarah Novogrodsky.

Marjorie Hilsenrad, on the death of her friend,
Lee Bowman.

Julia Bloomfield, on the death of her friend,
Maryane Dunstan.

New Members

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our congregation gained the following new members this month. A warm welcome to the most recent people to join our family:

Carol Dawson-Rose
Steph Cohen and Rina Czapszys
Eric Johansson
John David Shone
William Dwiggins
Martin Rawlings
Barbara Lynn Braasch
Marc Sosnick

We are gratified to see our congregation grow. It is up to all of us to help our new members feel welcome as they become active participants in our community.

The Women of Exodus

Taught by
Rebecca Schwartz

Wednesdays,
February 12 - March 5, 7 - 8:30 pm

In class we will read relevant portions of Exodus to gain an overall understanding of the biblical characters in question, particularly looking at the role of women in the Passover story. The course includes text study about Miriam, the midwives, Yocheved and Pharaoh's daughter, with a special emphasis on overt vs. covert use of power by women. Class participants will be encouraged to write a short essay or midrash exploring one or more biblical women, drawing from the themes explored in class. A supplemental reading list will be offered. To register, please contact Lehrhaus Judaica (510/845-6420). Co-sponsored by Cong. Sha'ar Zahav and Lehrhaus Judaica, the Adult School for Jewish Studies Tuition: members: \$35, nonmembers: \$45

Rebecca Schwartz is the editor of All the Women Followed Her: A Collection of Writings on Miriam the Prophet and the Women of Exodus. She currently serves as Director of The Peninsula Academy for Jewish Education.

Iv'du et Hashem B'simcha: Come Let Us Serve God with Joy

Creating a Spiritual Space –
Service Leading with Confidence

Rabbi Camille Shira Angel, Nathan Robinson and Leslie Kane
Tuesdays, February 11 and 18, 7 - 9 pm

A Shaliach Tzibbur means a messenger from the community. Both to pray and to lead prayer require a commitment to practice. We are inherently natural service leaders. For those of you who could never imagine leading a service, this class is especially for you! This class is to help you discover that talent in a spiritual, accessible and enjoyable way, whether you are a seasoned leader or have not yet led. Part of Sha'ar Zahav's unique mission is inclusivity, and everyone is welcome both in

our sanctuary and on our bimah. When you lead a service you discover many things about your spirit and yourself as a person and a Jew. Service leading is as much a gift to you as to the congregation. We are a nation of priests. Come let us be a congregation of service leaders. Please RSVP for this class no later than February 5, so that we can tailor this course to meet your needs. For information or to register, please contact Melanie Kushnir (ext. 305 or mkushnir@shaarzahav.org.)

Sexuality in Israeli Culture and Film - In A Day

Taught by Avner Even-Zohar
Sunday, February 16, 12:30 - 5:30 pm

In this course we will explore sexuality (or maybe the lack of sexuality) in Israeli culture in the first 25 years of statehood. We will discuss the roots of Zionism and its image as a national movement from a personal and physical point of view. Christian-rooted European anti-Semitism and the Holocaust pushed the founding fathers (and why not mothers?) of Israel to create a new national image of the Sabra – the native born Israeli. The Sabra became ironically a Jewish-boy or rather a Jewish goy (non-Jew). During the course we will watch and analyze clips from Israel, for example: *Hill 24 Does Not Answer* (1955) and *Hide and Seek* (1980). The film images are very powerful and easy to follow. Students will be encouraged to ask ques-

tions and to compare the Israeli experience of a mobilized society in a state of ongoing war to their own experience growing up in the US during the Cold War era. Please bring lunch. To register, please contact Lehrhaus Judaica (510/845-6420).

Co-sponsored by Cong. Sha'ar Zahav and by Lehrhaus Judaica, the Adult School for Jewish Studies.

Tuition: \$40; \$30/CSZ members;
\$25/Learning for Life (age 65+)



Avner Even-Zohar is a native-born Israeli. He now serves as Director of Campus Division for the Israel Center of the Jewish Community Federation in San Francisco.

February 2003 ♦ Shevat 5763/Adar 1

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

MARCH DEADLINE MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, AT 5 PM

ARTICLES

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kschiller@igc.org. No late submissions will be accepted.

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2 **30 Shevat**

3

1 Adar I

4

2 Adar I

5

3 Adar I

6

- 4 pm Healing Service

- 7 pm Beit Midrash

- 6:30 pm Prayerbook Hebrew II

- 4 pm Midweek Kadimah
- 6:30 pm Social Action Committee
- 7 pm JGF Editing

9 **7 Adar I**

10

8 Adar I

11

9 Adar I

12

10 Adar I

13

- 7 pm Music in the Miskan

- 6:30 pm Prayerbook Hebrew II
- 7 pm Service Leading with Confidence

- 4 pm Midweek Kadimah
- 7 pm Women of Exodus

16 **14 Adar I**

17

15 Adar I

18

16 Adar I

19

17 Adar I

20

- 10 am Baby Chavurah
- 12:30 pm Israeli Film and Sexuality

*President's Day
OFFICE CLOSED*
• 7 pm Kesher/Membership

- 6:30 pm Prayerbook Hebrew II
- 7 pm Service Leading with Confidence

- 4 pm Midweek Kadimah
- 7 pm Women of Exodus

23 **21 Adar I**

24

22 Adar I

25

23 Adar I

26

24 Adar I

27

- 6:30pm CEB

- 6:30 pm Prayerbook Hebrew II

- 4 pm Midweek Kadimah
- 7 pm Women of Exodus

Scholar-in...

URSDAY

FRIDAY

SHABBAT

1 Shabbat Mishpatim, Ex21:1-24:18 29 Shevat

- 9 am Torah Study
- 9:30 am Kadimah
- 10 am Shabbat Services led by Marc Wernick and Andy Fyne

4 Adar I**7****5 Adar I****8 Shabbat Terumah, Ex25:1-27:19 6 Adar I**

- 5:22 pm Candle Lighting
- 6:15 pm Family Dinner
- 7:30 pm Shabbat Services led by Steve Weitz and Jonathan Funk

- 9 am Torah Study
- 9:30 am Kadimah
- 10 am Shabbat Services led by Leslie Kane

11 Adar I**14****12 Adar I****15 Shabbat Tezzaveh, Ex27:20-30:10 13 Adar I**

V Meeting

- 5:29 pm Candle Lighting
- 7:30 pm Shabbat Services led by Rabbi Angel

NO KADIMAH

- 9 am Torah Study
- 10 am Shabbat Services led by Rabbi Angel

18 Adar I**21****19 Adar I****22 Shabbat Ki Tissa Ex30:11-34:35 20 Adar I**

- 5:37 pm Candle Lighting
- 5:50 pm Third Friday Dinner
- 7:30 pm Shabbat Services led by Rabbi Angel and Daniel Chesir

- 9 am Torah Study
- 9:30 am Kadimah
- 10 am Shabbat Services led by Rabbi Angel and Howard Steiermann
- 10:30 am Tot Shabbat

Scholar-in-Residence Benay Lappe**25 Adar I****28****26 Adar I**

Ritual Committee Meeting

- 5:44 pm Candle Lighting
- 7:30 pm Shabbat Services

**East Bay Chavurah Meets with Rabbi Angel**

The East Bay Chavurah will be celebrating Shabbat with Rabbi Angel on Saturday, March 1. We'll start with a study session at 5 pm on the theme of Purim. How do we relate to Esther's coming out? About 6:15 pm, we'll end our study with havdalah and a potluck dinner. All are welcome to join the East Bay Chavurah for what promises to be a wonderful evening. For those bringing children to the study session, please RSVP by February 21 with your children's ages, so we can provide for their needs while adults and older kids study. We will meet at the home of Ida Kuluk and Susan Spott, 4042 Maple Ave, Oakland (510/530-4673).

Pinat Yeladim Umishpachah

Children and Family Corner



Family Kabbalat Shabbat

Friday, February 7, 6:15 pm

Commune, eat, sing and celebrate Shabbat with CSZ families and stay for Friday night services. Families with children are encouraged to come. Dinner is vegetarian potluck. Please bring according to your last name: H-N a main dish to share, O-T a side dish, salad or fruit, U-Z drinks, A-G dessert. No RSVP required. Be a part of the ruach (spirit) of our community and invite friends and family to join you. Shabbat Shalom.

While Sue is on Maternity Leave...

During the months of February and March, Educator Sue Bojdak will be on maternity leave. During that time, Caryn Aviv will be the point person for Shabbat Kadimah and Phyllis Mintzer will be the contact for Midweek Kadimah. Membership Assistant Alison Gilbert will be providing administrative support in the office. Please direct questions and concerns accordingly. We look forward to continuing to serve your needs during Sue's absence.

Contact Alison Gilbert

ext. 316

or agilbert@shaarzahav.org
for more information about any
of these programs or to RSVP.

Tot Shabbat

Saturday, February 22,
10:30 am to Noon

Come celebrate Shabbat with your tot. Bring your two to five year olds for singing, prayer, storytelling, crafts and family Jewish fun with Sandra Menachem, Early Childhood Education Specialist.

Younger siblings and non-members are welcome. Tot Shabbat meets the last Saturday of the month.

Baby Chavurah

Sunday, February 16,
10 am to Noon

Bring those under twos out to play, sing and commune with like-minded babes and their parents. Join us for potluck brunch, playtime and socializing. This month we meet at the synagogue. Please bring your baby and a vegetarian dish to share. Older siblings are welcome, as are non-members. Baby Chavurah meets every three weeks.



Friday Night Childcare: Opinions Needed

We're more than halfway through our Friday Night Childcare experiment and we need to hear from you. If you have feedback, ideas or questions, please contact Ilana Bernstein (ddesmond1@mindspring.com).

Kadimah Teacher of the Month: Ila Cherney



Ila Cherney is now in her fourth year on the Kadimah staff. Ila has worked in the Jewish communities of Chicago, Jerusalem, White Plains and San Francisco for many years where she has gathered over 20 years of teaching experience. Away from Sha'ar Zahav, Ila works with Alzheimer's patients as a Program Leader in the Jewish Home's "Dr. Shenson's Quality of Life Program."

Ila is continuing to teach Ge'avah (Pride) to our Kindergarten/1st grade class and joined our Wednesday staff this year as the teacher for Kitah Gimel (3rd/4th grade). Ila's students benefit from Ila's exuberant Hebrew teaching, complex and creative projects, and her talent for making Judaism active, real and relevant to their lives.

Ila recently took another step in her relationship with Sha'ar Zahav by becoming a member of our community. Brucha Ha-Ba'a! Welcome!

There is

NO KADIMAH on
Saturday, February 15

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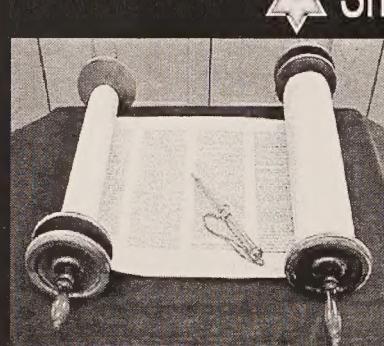
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The Social Action Committee: Craig Persiko, A.J. Turpen and Susan Lubeck by Prudence Carter

As the calendar year closes, many of us muse about what we have and have not accomplished. For some, it is a time to set goals by reviewing our commitments to Jewish principles that bind us together as a community.

With this thought in mind, the "doers" profiled this month are the co-chairs of our Social Action Committee: A.J. Turpen, Craig Persiko and Susan Lubeck. Each individual brings a unique and powerful perspective to tikkun olam. Perhaps this interview will spark you to set apart time to heal the world. (A.J. was not able to participate because of his imminent wedding to Ina Fried. We wish a mazel tov to the newlyweds.)

JGF: What led you to CSZ?

CP: I wasn't raised Jewish, but my father converted to Judaism in 1993. Immediately after my partner Geoff Benjamin and I moved here in 1996, Geoff became a member and I would join him at services and other activities. I became a member in 2001.

SL: Just about everything I know about Judaism I learned at CSZ, which I was drawn to because of its inclusiveness, progressive values and humor. I've been a member since 1994. I was raised in a non-observant Jewish family, with an interfaith extended family. My partner Richard and I met on the bimah of the Danvers building – thinking we were meeting to be co-parents, and later becoming life partners. So I'm pretty bonded to this shul.

JGF: Why social action and what is the meaning of social action in the context of the community?

CP: I have always been involved in some type of social action through volunteer work, whether it be an environmental cause or the Stop AIDS Project. Geoff actually suggested that I become a co-chair of the Social Action Committee. A.J. at the time was chairing the committee and looking for a co-chair. As co-chair I became involved in the community not just through Geoff but also through my own direct participation.



My motivation for social action comes from an activist point of view. Social action is the vehicle for creating change inside and outside CSZ on issues that matter, like the environment, LGBT issues and social equity.

SL: I have been involved for more than 20 years trying to contribute to social justice. Although I got politicized through feminism and through coming out, my main focus has always been economic justice, working against racism and poverty. Jewish Fund for Justice has this new slogan, "zero tolerance for poverty," which I think is provocative.

Why through CSZ? We have the opportunity as a spiritual community engaged in tikkun olam to strengthen our bonds with one another and with our Judaism.

JGF: How are social action services evolving and what new programs are being developed?

CP: For a long time, CSZ has been involved with Project Open Hand and other service-based programs. There has always been an evolving history of activism at CSZ starting, in my memory, with Rabbi Kahn pushing LGBT issues at CCAR (the Reform movement's association of rabbis). Our focus is now on planning how to address LGBT issues such as gender and sexual equality through justice actions, education, spirituality and service. Some areas of focus are gay marriage and developing forums for education and dialogue.

SL: We are experimenting with building a core group who participate in social action, building greater depth of experiences and connections. A.J. got us linked to the weekly meal with homeless people at Most Holy Redeemer Church. Each Wednesday there is a well-organized, sit-down dinner for 100 or more homeless people, with good food and lots of love. Our community is building up a core group of congregants.

We also want to begin focusing on justice-related activities concerning the LGBT community. We are also planning to link CSZ with other faith communities in pursuit of justice issues. Finally, in addition to social justice-oriented Shabbat services, we'd like to build text study and reflection into selected activities.

JGF: So how do three co-chairs work?

CP: There is a theoretical division of responsibility. The areas of service and justice issues are mine, A.J.'s focus is education and dialogue and Susan's is communication, organization and spirituality linked to social action.

SL: We meet once a month, with frequent contact in between. Getting to work with Craig and A.J. has been a lot of fun and has enriched my relationship to CSZ.

JGF: What do you want to share with the community about commitment and becoming involved with Social Action?

—continued on page 15

Synagogue Information

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav
290 Dolores Street
415/861-6932(voice);415/861-6081 (fax)
Programming office, 415/575-4961
Education office, 415/575-4962
• office@shaarzahav.org (email)
• http://www.shaarzahav.org (web)
CSZ Staff:

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• rabbiangel@shaarzahav.org

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• jcarlson@shaarzahav.org

Interim Program Director,
Melanie Kushnir (x 305)
• mkushnir@shaarzahav.org

Director of Children's and Family
Education
Sue Bojnak (x 302)
• educator@shaarzahav.org

Kadimah Head Teacher,
Phyllis Mintzer

Administrative Assistant,
Joe Marin (x 304)
• jmarin@shaarzahav.org

Rabbi's Assistant,
Gabby Volodarsky (x 310)
• gabby@shaarzahav.org

Membership Assistant
Alison Gilbert (x316)
• agilbert@shaarzahav.org

Officers:

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• llkatz1@juno.com or
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Karen Schiller

Howard Steiermann

Members wishing to contact any
Va'ad member or committee chair
are invited to obtain her or his
number from the synagogue office.

Bikkur Cholim: If you or a friend who
is a member of Sha'ar Zahav are ill
in the hospital or at home, and would
like to have a member of the Bikkur
Cholim Committee call or visit, please
notify the synagogue office.

Committee Chairs:

Adult Education, Ron Edelman and Joss Eldredge

Baby Chavurah, by committee

Bequests and Donations, Richard Inlander

Bikkur Cholim, open

Book Group, Mark Mackler

Building and Grounds, Beth Sousa

Bylaws, Richard Inlander

Children's Education Board, Ruthy Talansky

Cemetery, Richard Inlander

Dor Rishon Brotherhood, open

Dues, Tiela Chalmers, Laura Lowe, Ron Lezell

East Bay Chavurah, Ida Kuluk and Larry Wexler

Endowment Fund, David Stein

Experiment in Congregational Education,

Dan Bellm

Finance, Gail Ludwig

Fine Arts, Barbara Cymrot

Fund for the Future, Laura Lowe and Richard Meyerson

Fundraising, Arthur Slepian

Gift Shop, Jeff Rubin

Israel Committee, Michal Goralsky and Steve Mazer

Kesher/Connection, Marianne Balin and Geri Kahn

Leadership Development, Paul Cohen

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Long-Range Planning, Arthur Slepian and Claudia Bernard

Membership Outreach, Tony Harris

Mishkan Dolores Capital Campaign, Deborah Udin

Newsletter, Karen Schiller

• kschiller@igc.org

Outreach, Mark Gershman and Daphne Stuart

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Public Relations, Sharyn Saslawsky and Marc Wernick

Rabbi Liaison, Ora Prochovnick

Ritual, Howard Steiermann

Social Action, AJ Turpen, Craig Persiko, Susan Lubeck

25th Anniversary Committee, Sharyn Saslawsky and Terrett Drake

UAHC National Liaison, Mike Rankin

UAHC Regional Liaison, Daniel Chesir

WCGLBJO Liaison, David Gellman

Web and I.T., Geoff Benjamin

December Va'ad Minutes

Laura Lowe delivered the d'var Torah on Parashat Vayigash, focusing on the need for family, community and forgiveness.

Rabbi Angel encouraged us to notice when members are mentioned in the news, pointing out Nancy Kates's upcoming film screening. She commended James Carlson for giving so much of himself to the community. She would like to connect folks who are interested in having children. Feedback is welcome on the practice of not reading the entire mi'sheberach list at Shabbat services.

President Lisa Katz began a discussion on fundraising, particularly the issue of whether fundraising events should be egalitarian and inclusive, or whether larger donors should receive special recognition. A variety of perspectives were expressed and the discussion will continue.

Lisa proposed that, during Rabbi Lappe's visit, a fundraising event be held in a private home, with \$100 tickets but no one turned away for inability to pay. Contributors of time and money would be recognized. The proposal passed, over an objection that a fundraising event should not be sliding scale.

Don Fischer proposed having volunteers host a monthly Erev Shabbat dinner at their homes. Our earlier service time makes it difficult to have dinner at home and get to services. We have a policy of not holding CSZ events which conflict with services (except in the East Bay). Following discussion of the Rabbi's concerns, there will be a written proposal and vote.

Karen Schiller presented a communications audit proposal which she and Marc Wernick prepared. They want to find out how people currently get information from CSZ, what information members want and how they could best receive it. We approved the proposal unanimously, with thanks to Karen and Marc for their effort.

— continued on page 13



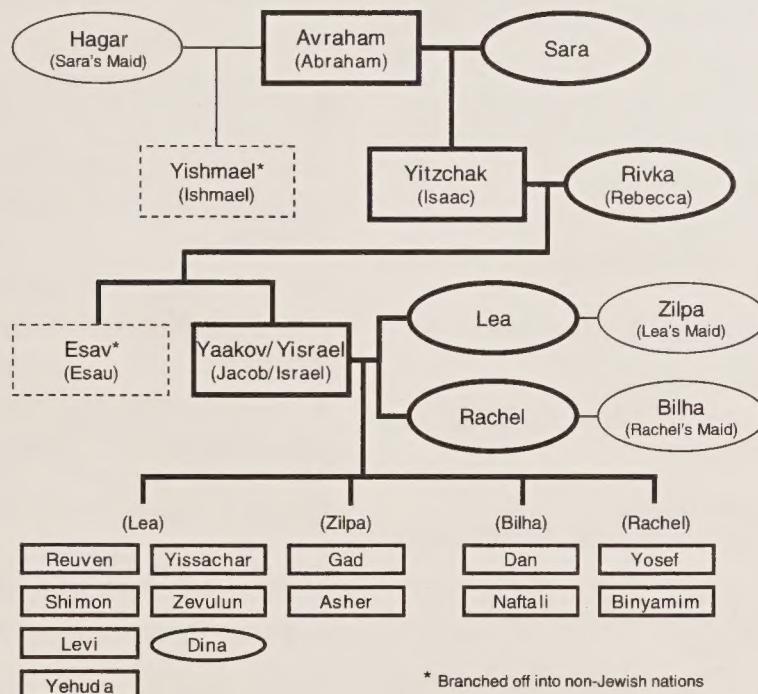
From the JEWISH TOOL KIT

Interesting and useful little tidbits about Shabbat and holidays, Hebrew language, liturgy, Jewish history and other areas of Jewish life. This month...

The Jewish Family Tree

The Jewish Tool Kit would love to regale you with the complete history of the Jewish people throughout the ages. But believe it or not, the Jewish Gaily Forward would not give the Tool Kit all sixteen pages of the newsletter this month. So we'll start off small, with the family tree of the ancestors we call the avot and imahot (patriarchs and matriarchs), and a few historical highlights.

The Jewish Family...



...Becomes the Jewish Nation

Yosef is sold into slavery in Egypt but eventually becomes Prime Minister.

Yaakov settles in Egypt with the rest of his family. B'nei Yisrael (the Children of Israel) prosper and grow into a nation.

The descendants of Yaakov's sons become the 12 Tribes of Israel (Yosef becomes two tribes through his sons Efraim and Menashe; Levi becomes a tribe without a territorial inheritance in the land of Israel).

"There arose a new king in Egypt who did not know Yosef" – B'nei Yisrael become slaves in Egypt.

Moses, a descendant of Levi, leads B'nei Yisrael on the Exodus from Egypt. God leads them through the desert for 40 years until the generation that lived through slavery has died.

Moses dies; Joshua leads B'nei Yisrael into the land of Israel.

The 12 tribes each settle a different territory. The Levites get no land but become the attendants of the temple.

The Levites descended from Aharon (Moses's brother) become the kohanim (priests) who officiate in the temple.

February Anniversaries

- | | |
|----|-----------------------------------|
| 6 | Barbara Cymrot and Dafna Wu |
| 14 | Joan Lefkowitz and Stacey Shuster |
| 14 | Howard Rubin and Gene Nakajima |
| 18 | Jim Acerra and Tony Enriquez |
| 21 | Lele and Rachel Field |

Comments about the Jewish Tool Kit or requests for topics to be covered can be sent to PirkeiAvot@attglobal.net.

Rabbi Angel's Recommended Reading



Paul Cowan,
An Orphan in History: One Man's Triumphant Search for His Jewish Roots.
Jewish Lights Publishing.

Anita Diamant, The Red Tent.
Picador.

Bruce Feiler,
Walking the Bible: A Journey by Land Through the Five Books of Moses
Perennial.

Irving Howe,
World of Our Fathers: The Journey of the East European Jews to America and the Life they Found and Made.
Galahad Books.



Members' Yahrzeits

- | | |
|----|-------------------|
| 1 | Steven Richter |
| 2 | Stephen Walters |
| 4 | John Atteridge |
| 6 | Ronald Wilmot |
| 14 | Barbara Rosenblum |
| 15 | Alan Ellis |
| 17 | Jason Gaber |
| 22 | Leland Vogel |
| 25 | Ede Rosen |

VA'AD—continued from page 12

Lisa also expressed thanks to Co-chair Prudence Carter, who has resigned, for her work on the 25th Anniversary celebration. Thanks to Sharyn Saslafsky and new member Terrett Drake for stepping in as co-chairs.



Contributions

* General Fund Donations

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-in memory of David Glassberg.

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Rena Frantz and Ora Prochovnick
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Riva Frederick
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William Hirsch
-in honor of Ron Lezell's 50th birthday.

Alex Ingersoll and David Stein
-in memory of Benjamin Gold and Marilyn O'Keeffe.
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-in memory of Isa Leah Cymrot-Wu.

Laura Lowe
-in honor of Rabbi Angel, Lisa Katz, Phyllis and George Mintzer, James Carlson and Richard Meyerson.

Ellen Murland and Barbara Rinkoff
-in honor of Sam and Harriet Miller.

Jeanette Nichols
-in memory of Joseph Nichols, Isa Leah Cymrot-Wu and Benjamin Gold.

Sumner and Evelyn Perlman
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Jeffrey Piade
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Karen Rachels
-in memory of Milton, Adele and Gary Feldman.

Jerry Rosenstein
-in honor of Ron Lezell's 50th birthday.

Beth Ross and Laura Trupin.

Michael Sarid
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Randy Weiss.

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-in memory of Benjamin Gold, Robert Arnold and Rita Rowniak.

Frank Yellin.

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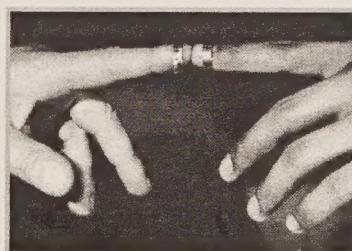
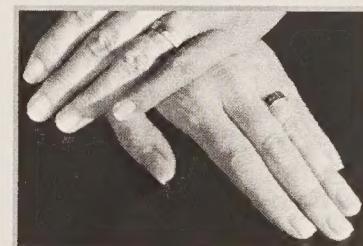
—DOERs continued from page 11

SL: For me, doing something, no matter how small it seems, helps me avoid the temptation to "numb out" to the injustice and unnecessary suffering going on in our neighborhoods and beyond. When I think about it, it seems to me that our ability to feel and act compassionately is amazing. Set aside some time for a social action commitment. Then you can get to know others who are involved. A great way to contribute is to organize something – an event or activity. Any one of us is thrilled to provide support and assistance – as "thinking buddy" or logistics support – to folks who are willing to provide that kind of leadership.

CP: Social action enriches your life. A quote that I believe applies is "It is better to light one candle than to curse the darkness." We need to take action to improve the world when we see something that is wrong. We should not be content to turn away; we must act to improve the situation.

SL: Prudence, I have a question for you. Are you going to pledge some hours?

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 6 Parker Windesheim-Zigas
 7 Ida Kuluk
 7 Oscar Klausner
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 9 Amy Gentile
 10 Ruth Miguel
 10 Samuel Tucker
 10 Carol Cantwell
 10 Elias Ross-Trupin
 11 Emma Abinanti-Sena
 11 Marion Williamson
 12 David Steinberg
 12 Joan Lefkowitz
 12 Itai Bojdak-Yates
 13 Avi Goldberg
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 14 Lisa DiGirolamo
 14 Sara Feinstein Shor
 14 Avraham Giannini
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 19 Steven Mazer
 20 Hilary Zaid
 20 James Edlin
 21 Felicia Park-Rogers
 21 Amy Scharf
 21 Andrew Schwartz
 22 Susan Tubbesing
 25 Nancy Silverrod
 25 Alex Ingersoll
 26 Ethan Frazin
 26 Erin Powers
 27 Neil Rosenbaum
 27 Benjamin Rainero-de Haan
 27 Nancy Brunn
 28 Danny Kodmur
 28 Steven Gaynes

Naches

- To Jay Davidson on joining the Peace Corps. Jay will be leaving on June 28 and living in Mauritania. While there, he will be working with the Ministry of Education, assisting in reviewing and rewriting text books on teaching English as a second language.
- To Caryn Aviv on becoming Assistant Professor at the University of California, San Francisco.
- To Mike Rankin who has just been appointed Clinical Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences in the Department of Psychiatry at George Washington University Medical School. Mike's article "Against All Odds," describes his work with HIV positive veterans, and has been accepted for publication by the Journal of Gay and Lesbian Psychotherapy.
- To Paul Whitmore on the occasion of his welcoming into the covenant.
- To Rachel and Reed Pruyn Goldstein on the birth of their daughter, Liana Jana Pruyn Goldstein.
- To Arthur Slepian on his promotion to Senior Vice President and Managing Director at PMI Group.
- To A.J. Turpen and Ina Fried, on the occasion of their wedding.

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